



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**www.state.tn.us/humanserv/
CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
Telephone 615-313-4700 TTY 1-800-270-1349
Fax 615-741-4165**

PHIL BREDESEN
Governor

VIRGINIA T. LODGE
Commissioner

TO: All Child Care Agencies Providing Transportation

FROM: Anne F. Turner, Director of Licensing

Cc: All Licensing Staff
All CCR&RC Staff

DATE: December 22, 2005

SUBJECT: "Frequently Asked Questions" About the 2007 School Bus Requirements

As all of you are aware, state law requires that DHS-Licensed child care agencies (and their contractors) who use a vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers must begin using a vehicle that complies with the federal "school bus" standards effective January 1, 2007.

To help you prepare for this new requirement the Department has created the attached information packet: **"Frequently Asked Questions About the Tennessee Department of Human Services' 2007 Child Care Transportation Vehicle Requirements"**. It contains the latest information available to the Department and will help you to plan your lease/purchase, as well as to plan what child restraint devices that your agency will need for the population of children that it transports. This "FAQ" document can also be found on the Department's web site at: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/childcare.htm> under **"Popular Topics"**. Please check this site regularly for updates, as we will be adding to the web any new information we receive about vehicle requirements and child restraint devices as such information becomes available. The latest information about approved vehicle alarms can also be found at this site.

Finally, please remember that there will be no grace period for compliance with this law – effective January 1, 2007 any vehicle that is not in compliance will be prohibited from use in child care transportation. Thus, because it can take up to 6 months to order and receive a bus which meets all requirements and is outfitted with the proper restraint devices it is critical that, if you have not already begun to do so, you begin researching your options *immediately*.